RUSSIAN ZEMSTVOS

An Agency Which Has Accomplished Much Good.

EFFECT ON THE MASSES

Progress Made in Recent Years in Many Directions.

HEALTH AND SANITATION

Improvement in Both Directions Cannot Be Overestimated—What Will Overthrow Ducal Autocracy.

The preliminary elections in Russia are giving rise to all sorts of rumors, and the only one which does not receive authentic denial is that the people of the empire are learning day by day revolutionary doctrines. If the insurrection against the autocratic government ever breaks out the unity of ideals and action, greater today than a year ago, there will result more tragic struggles than those of the French revolution.

The demand for political freedom tends for a freedom totally republican. The declaration of the principles adopted by the conference held not very long ago—and published in Sunday's Star—shows that the aim of the masses is for the abolition of autocracy by replacing it with a free democratic system on the basis of universal suffrage.

"The Russian zemstvo is an agency which has actually accomplished much good for the Russian masses," said a diplomat today, in discussing the political troubles of the czar's empire. "The Russians, singly or as a whole, are absolutely capable of governing themselves, declarations to the contrary notwithstanding. Russia is today well prepared for a constitution, to which it has looked forward for the last half century. The zemstvo, in the opinion of most statesmen—except the Russian grand dukes—is a real, solid foundation for popular government, with great adaptability for development. The zemstvo, too, have had to labor under difficulties. Persecuted by the nobles and interrupted by the police, the zemstvo officials have never a peaceful moment to fulfill their duties. What recommendations the body had to make to the people were always deemed revolutionary by the military or the police. Now, of course, the sittings are not openly interfered with, thanks to the ukase issued by the czar after the close of the war with Japan. In spite of many encroachments upon their rights, the zemstvos are more than ever convinced of the importance of their task.

Duties of the Zemstvo.

"The actual duties of the zemstvo are somewhat similar to the American city councils. The questions it has to decide today concern public education, hospital and charity work, sanitation, bridge and road building, the regulation of navigation on rivers and lakes, the erection and administration of local prisons, local postal affairs, agriculture and the greatest task of all—the most just distribution of the taxes imposed by the general government. Despite its difficulties and the obstacles which the central government is constantly interposing, the zemstoo has, beyond a doubt, demonstrated that it really cares for the Russian people.

"Almost all of the public schools of the empire," continued the diplomat, "are administered by that body. It is the duty of the school board chiefly to inspect the schools, to employ and to discharge teachers and to close schools whose tendency is not normal.

"Official statistics show what good work the zemstvo has done, and taking education as an example, we get a good insight in the progress of Russia. In 1830, before the introduction of local self-government as exercised by the zemstvos, there existed in the entire empire 1,134 public schools. Twenty-five years later, through the zemstovos, these figures had been increased to 1,051. In 1895, the item of public education in the zemstvo budget amounted to 9,327,000 rubles, or a little less than 15 per cent of the entire budget. In 1905 the figures had again substantially increased, although their exactness could not be verified owing to the troubles arising from the war.

"By an imperial ukase of 1868 the zemstvos of one of the governments was privileged to assume the maintenance of all roads within its borders hitherto in the care of the state. The trial proved so successful that very soon other governments were permitted also to look after their own roads and lay out a good many new ones. In 1895—the last year of complete official statistics—showed an expenditure of little less than $2,000,000 for the maintenance of public highways.

"They also took charge of many other public functions which are maintained by private enterprise in other countries. They purchase, for example, tools and the products of agriculture for the peasants. In many cities also they are in the business of bookselling—when the imperial censor will allow them. Fire insurance (American enterprise) is also an important object of their activity; the zemstvos act as insurance companies for the peasants.

Public Health and Sanitation.

"The greater part of the activities of the local self-governing bodies in Russia, of late, is taken up with the care of the public health and sanitation—two questions which are difficult of solution even in the well-regulated communities of America, France and Germany. While it was difficult for the bureaucracy to encroach upon the field of the zemstvo in this particular there was still the ignorance and superstition of the people to be fought against. The success of the zemstvo in improving the public health cannot be overestimated.

"The hospitals in the several zemstvo governments were left entirely to the care of this institution. In these governments, which had a population of, approximately, 60,000,000, before the zemstvo law came into effect there were only 351 hospitals with nearly 12,000 beds, of which more than one thousand were insane patients. All of these, strange to say, were, without exception, situated in the cities; there was not one single hospital in the country districts, and the condition of all of them baffled description. The majority of the patients were either political prisoners or soldiers. If it were their misfortune to be in country districts the only medical aid they received was by inexperienced druggists. Throughout all Russia there were but 200 sick beds throughout the country, to be used, mainly, by government serfs. Those who were in slavery to the private landlords had no medical aid.

"But the zemstvos, instead, as soon as given a free hand in carrying out their humane work built additional hospitals and asylums. By 1890 six new city hospitals had been built, while the country districts were honored with over seven hundred new hospitals, with an aggregate capacity of more than 9,000 patients. Additional insane asylums were founded, and a large staff of travelling physicians were in frequent attendance.

"So the zemstvo," concluded the diplomat, "is in reality a body who has lofty views, and whose aims are for the benefit of humanity, whatever its peccadillos may be. It has done much more for self-government in Russia than has the central government. It has been able to succeed despite the ignorance and inability of Russian officials. The employes of the zemstvo, moreover, differ entirely from the typical chinovnik or Russian official, in that they are zealous and honest in their labors for the welfare of their country.

"Therefore it is possible that the influence exercised over the masses by the several zemstvos may be the means to maintain the people quiet and to prevent a revolution—or, at least, an insurrection—but the zemstvos must be given additional privileges by the Russian government, which, by far, has not conferred liberty upon all Russians and Russian institutions.

"The struggle between the different political, social and fraternal leagues and the zemstvos may be continued—the ones fighting for their rights by resorting to force, the others by dealing gently with the people. But if ever—as is possible—the leagues and the zemstvos co-ordinate their efforts and reach an amicable understanding, then the Russian crown is in danger, and the death knell of grand ducal autocracy will be sounded."

ACTORS AT HOSPITAL

ENTERTAIN PATIENTS OF GOVERNMENT INSANE ASYLUM.

The convalescent patients at the Government Hospital for the Insane were given a treat yesterday afternoon by twenty-five or more members of "The Earl and the Girl" company, playing this week at the Belasco Theater. Five large automobiles and as many carriages were employed to convey the performers to the hospital grounds, and the trip from the Belasco Theater to the institution across the river was made in the quickest time allowed by law and seemed to be greatly enjoyed by the players.

The affair was in the nature of an outing for the actor folk, as well as a benefit entertainment for the hospital inmates, and the bunch of erstwhile "cow-girls," coryphees and ballet dancers displayed as much spirit and vivacity in their performances in their street clothes as they do when on the stage in the glare of the calcium, singing, marching and gyrating in amazing dances, robed now in costumes of studious scantiness and again in a plenitude of swirling, rustling lingerie.

The performance was held in the theater at the Government Hospital and the auditorium was completely filled with inmates and attendants of the institution. Never before had the performers played to a house containing so many persons of unsound mind. At least, if they ever did they were not aware of it, and the players were almost as interested in their auditors as the latter were interested in the performers.

Greeted With Applause.

Each act of the entertainers was greeted by the convalescents with as hearty applause as is accorded by auditors of supposedly healthy minds. It was interesting, indeed, for the spectator to note the eagerness of the patients when the acts were about to begin. They seemed to possess the simplicity and eagerness of children, with the imagination of grown persons, and their enjoyment was thus intensified.

A male quartet, composed of Messrs. Harter, Boyce, Marshall and Zeigler, furnished the first number on the program. The quartet sang "Annie Laurie," and they must have sung it well, for the strains of the familiar old song seemed to touch the sensibilities of many of the strange-faced women patients in the audience, softening their usual weird expression, while tears started by quickened memories of their own earlier romances made damp lines down their cheeks. An encore, "The Boy and the Tack," aroused sensations entirely opposite. Not an intellect in the assembly, it appeared, was so clouded that its possessor could not see the point, and loud shouts of laughter and enthusiastic applause rewarded the musical story of the teacher's unfortunate adventure with the business end of a tack.

Bevy of "Cow-Girls."

Mr. J. Bernard Dyllyn, with a bevy of "cow-girls"—in their street clothes, however—sang "Cheyenne," and the shouting of the chorus was greatly augmented by the whoops of many of the male auditors, who were unable to restrain their desire to have a part in the success of the number.

Miss Brownie Adams, understudy for the prima donna of the company, won a warm place in the favor of the audience by her singing of several songs of "The Earl and the Girl," assisted by sixteen of the young women of the chorus. Miss Lee Meiner executed some dances that pleased the audience immensely. The orchestra, composed of employes at the hospital, played several selections during the intervals between the various acts.

It was considered a very successful performance and the audience left the theater with pleased expressions on their countenances. The performers also declared they had a jolly time and everybody was pleased.

Following the performance the visitors were conducted through the grounds and buildings by Dr. Hummer of the hospital staff, and many amusing and interesting incidents made the inspection enjoyable for the visitors. Before the return supper was served the company in the dining hall at the administration building.

It had been expected that Eddie Foy, Miss Amelia Summerville, Miss Nellie McCoy and other principals in the show would assist in the entertainment, but in that expectation the managers of the affair were disappointed.

VETERAN FIREMEN.

Result of Annual Election of Officers—Busines Transacted.

At the nineteenth annual meeting of the Veteran Volunteer Fireman's Association held last evening at the old Union engine house, 19th and E streets, the election of officers took place, when most of the old officers were re-elected, the result being announced as follows: James H. Richards, president; F. W. Kahlert, vice president; John J. Peabody, recording secretary; Julius Strobel, financial secretary, and John T. Suter, treasurer; engineers, H. C. Thorn and Frank Lowe; marshal, James Dobbyn; committee on membership, Daniel Genau, J. R. Dobbyn, F. A. Lowe, F. H. Fridley and Thomas F. Cissell.

The trustees are Messrs. Richards, Kahlert, Lowe, Thorn and J. L. Brown.

The reports of officers read by Mr. Peabody showed a healthy financial condition; that there have been 234 names on the roll and at present there are 57 active members, 16 life members and 1 honorary member.

An invitation to attend the next annual convention of the Maryland firemen at Westminster on June 6, 7 and 8 was received from the fire department of that place and laid over for future consideration.

An invitation to attend its seventh anniversary on Wednesday, 11th instant, was received from the Ladies' Auxiliary and accepted.

Mr. Schofield for Engineer Reynolds of Georgetown, presented the frontispiece of the hat worn by the late Jefferson D. Angell of the Potomac hose.

Mr. Richards returned thanks for his reelection for the sixteenth time and invited the members to oysters and coffee, following the serving of which the meeting adjourned.

IN SPECIAL SESSION.

Grand Council of Fraternal Sons of Jonadab.

A special meeting of the Grand Council of the Fraternal Sons of Jonadab was held last night at the home of Mr. Robert Emmet O'Brien, 720 13th street northeast. Mr. O'Brien was by unanimous vote selected to preside over the deliberations of the meeting.

It was agreed to commemorate the first anniversary of the organization Thursday night, May 3, at Army and Navy Union Hall, and a committee consisting of Charles A. Lucas, William A. Hickey, Thomas J. Clark and R. E. O'Brien, was appointed to arrange for the event. It was also agreed to publish a souvenir booklet, to be distributed on the occasion among the members of the order and their families and friends.

Secretary R. W. H. Schultz read a report of the committee on constitution, which denoted progress.

Mr. Thomas J. Clark took occasion to commend President Roosevelt for the appointment of Mr. William H. De Lacey as judge of the Juvenile Court, and a resolution was adopted that a committee of the order call in person on Judge De Lacey and congratulate him upon his appointment.

The selection of a regalia for the officers and members of the Grand Council and subordinate councils was discussed, but action was deferred until the next meeting, which will be held Tuesday, May 17, at 17 Q street northwest.

Following the meeting Mrs. O'Brien entertained the members at luncheon.

Alleged Diversion of $200.

At the request of District Attorney Moran summonses were issued at Boston yesterday in the case of the commonwealth against John Doe and others, the title under which the case of Robert G. Proctor, private secretary of Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, is being considered. Before the legislature committee on counties at the state house yesterday the district attorney stated that he desired to investigate a charge that Mr. Proctor had misappropriated $200 given him by John G. Bestgen, of Boston for the republican campaign fund several years ago.

SOME OF THE GATEWAYS

LECTURE BY COL. McELROY AT PUBLIC LIBRARY.

"Some Gateways of the World" was the subject of a lecture delivered by Col. John McElroy Monday evening at the Washington Public Library, as one of the discussions of the free lecture course of the public schools. The speaker was introduced to the large audience by Judge James T. Dubois of the State Department, a member of the library board of trustees, who took occasion to compliment very highly the earnest efforts of Mrs. A. S. Gitterman, who, he said, had been the moving spirit in bringing about the lectures for the public schools. Judge Dubois then paid a tribute to the speaker of the evening. The lecture was illustrated by more than one hundred views.

Col. McElroy said that he would have to speak often of battles, because the battles raged about the gateways to a country and were the surest indications of the importance of those gateways to the people who were attacking and defending them. He mentioned as the most important of the gateways of the world the Plain of Esdraelon, which for many centuries was the battlefield of the world. It was of this famous plain that Gibbon, the historian, said that "on resurrection morn more bodies would rise from its triangular valley of from twelve to thirty-six miles on a side than from any other place in the world, so important were the early wars fought there and so destructive were they."

The next great gateway mentioned was Constantinople, which controls the passage to the Black and Mediterranean seas. Here, the speaker said, every people in Europe, ancient and modern, had fought time and again for possession, and stood ready to fight again. Constantinople itself had undergone more than 800 sieges, the very last war being in 1877, when the Russian troops camped within seven miles of the great city and were only balked of their prey by the arousing of Europe. Col. McElroy sketched the centuries of fighting along the Danube, up which valley, he declared, the teeming millions of Asia had poured into Europe. He then passed to France, which he showed was cut off from Italy by the mighty Alps, which finally sunk down into the plains of Belgium, where wars for the passage and gateway had been so innumerable that Belgium had gained the name of the cockpit of Europe. For more than 2,000 years wars have occurred there every generation, he said, recorded history beginning with the wars of Caesar and the last war being in 1871-72, when Napoleon III lost his crown, France was prostrated and the German empire was created.

Passages Through the Alleghenies.

The gateways of the United States were sketched by means of maps, the speaker showing the natural passages through the Alleghenies which became the avenues through which the people of the south and eastern Atlantic seaboard traded and communicated with each other and with the great west and the Mississippi valley. He declared that these passageways had been first marked out by wild animals in their search for food, water and salt, and were in turn followed by the Indians, the hunters, the emigrants and finally became the routes of the railroads which center here and then from Richmond radiate out over the south. These, he pointed out, had annals of dreadful fighting from colonial days to the civil war. His declaration that to get south from Washington overland a citizen of New York or any of the New England states must pass through Washington and that all the freight from the one section to the other must also pass through Washington, caused a murmur of surprise. Nobody present seemed to realize that this city was so important a railroad center. The speaker then passed to the Mississippi valley, which he declared to be the greatest of all the world's gateways.

He showed also how valuable Washington was to the contending forces in the civil war. He declared its control by either side a political assistance, but its military control was an absolute necessity to those who would win.

Geographically speaking, Col. McElroy declared the Mississippi river the greatest of all the world's gateways, the door to an empire larger than all Europe, outside of Russia, and of infinitely greater possibilities. He told the story of the earlier statesmen who believed that the Rocky mountains just beyond marked the boundaries of the country as laid down by the Almighty, and that it would be impiety to pass them, but the common people pressed on to the sundown seas firm in their belief that they knew as much of the Almighty's plans as anybody. He then showed how the great Northern and Northern Pacific, the Central or Union Pacific, and the Santa Fe railroads had made their way over the mountains, practically following Humboldt's "greatest of civil engineers, the buffalo," and then the Indians, and the emigrants, though millions of dollars had been spent in trying to find other routes.

In closing he said that the most brilliant achievements of our American soldiers occurred in the battling with the Sioux, Blackfeet, Crows, Comanches and Apaches.

MOROCCAN REFORMS PLANS.

The Protocol Will Make a Formidable Document.

The protocol of the conference on Moroccan reforms, copies of which are in course of preparation for signature by the delegates on Saturday, is a formidable document of 123 sections.

The opening paragraph sets forth the desire of the powers to assure peace and prosperity to Morocco by reforms without violating the three principles of sovereignty of the sultan, integrity of his dominions, and commercial equality, at the same time pointing out the method for procuring the resources necessary to the carrying out of the reforms proposed.

Details follow relative to the delegates' decisions concerning the organization of the police, the repression of contraband traffic in arms, the establishment of a state bank, the creation of fresh revenues, and the control of customs and public works. The signatory powers undertake to introduce legislation ratifying the engagements of the delegates.

Final ratification of the protocol will occur not later than December 13 of this year, at Madrid. Meanwhile the Moroccan delegates, having declared their inability to sign without referring the questions involved to the sultan, the signatory powers reciprocally engage to endeavor to obtain the sultan's integral adhesion to the reforms outlined, in order to make them simultaneously operative. The sultan's consent will be communicated to the powers through Spain, and will have the effect of a full ratification of the conference's decision.

The reforms will be effected December 31, 1906. Existing treaties between Morocco and the various powers will retain validity, but in the event of conflict between treaties and the conference protocol, the latter will take precedence.

The People's Mission.

A musical service was held last evening at the People's Mission. The hall was crowded when the exercises began. Friends of the mission among the professional musical public volunteered their services and rendered sacred songs. The exercises were opened by the audience singing under Mr. Havell's direction, which was followed by prayer, offered by Mr. Sweeny, a mission worker. Mrs. Spencer, the contralto of the Hamline Quartet, sang "The King of Love." The male quartet of the mission rendered selections. Mrs. B. H. Smart and Mr. M. E. Leaman, soprano and tenor of the Hamline Quartet, sang a duet, after which Dr. J. W. McMichael, director of the music at the First Baptist Church, and Mr. B. A. Linebeck, baritone in St. John's choir, sang solos. The address of the evening was made by Mr. Percy S. Foster, who, in a characteristic way, spoke of the relation of music, vocal and instrumental, to church work and the religious life. After a hymn by the audience Mrs. Smart sang a solo, Messrs. McMichael and Leaman a duet, Mr. Leaman a solo and Mr. Foster closed the exercises with a solo and prayer. Miss Amy Leavitt, the director of music at Hamline Church, was the accompanist.

The Old Dominion Brewing and Ice Company of Newport News, Va., has executed a general deed of assignment to J. A. Massie, trustee, conveying all its property for the benefit of all creditors without preference. O. D. Batchellor, representing the creditors, has filed a petition in the United States court seeking to put the company in bankruptcy.

WILL STUDY THE SUN

Observations on Radiation to Be Continued.

A WORK OF PURE SCIENCE

Object of Mr. Abbot's Trip to California.

CARRYING ON LANGLEY'S TASK

Possibility of Making Long-Range Weather Forecasts Involved—Value of the Contemplated Researches.

It has been decided by the Smithsonian to send Mr. C. G. Abbot of the institution next month to the astro-physical observatory of the Carnegie Institution, in California, to continue the observations on the radiation of the sun that were carried on there last summer. Mr. Abbot will probably pick up Mr. Ingersoll of the Wisconsin University on his way out to act as assistant, a position he filled very satisfactorily last summer. The work of observation will be continued till about October and will be checked by simultaneous observations from the observatory of the Smithsonian Institution, in Washington.

The observations are in line with the work that Professor Langley instituted. They will require a period of some years to establish what scientists now are pretty well assured of, namely, that there is a more or less irregular variation in the sun's radiation caused by the greater or less permeability of the sun's envelope, and that this has a definite effect on the earth's climate. The work is about as near pure science as one can come to it, but there is a practical application ahead at the same time. It is no less than the possibility of making long-range weather forecasts; that is to say, predicting in a general way whether the approaching winter will be mild or severe and whether the summer will be hot and dry or cold and wet. Of course, this work of prediction is a matter of the future, perhaps the distant future, but it is believed that it can be done, possibly with as much accuracy as the weather bureau now forecasts the weather conditions twenty-four hours in advance.

The Carnegie Institution has an exceptionally fine location for its astrophysical observatory in California at Mount Wilson, where it is possible to carry on observations in radiation under a cloudless sky almost every day through the summer. The instruments for the work are almost all there now, and it will be but a small matter to get the observations running again. The Carnegie scientists have been very courteous in putting their facilities at the disposal of the Smithsonian, and a good summer's work is expected.

The observations made in Washington are carried on under much greater difficulties. There are only a few days in the summer here when clouds and mists do not interfere with the work. But it has been found that the Washington observatory furnishes a very satisfactory check on the California observations.

Prof. Langley's Pet Work.

The details of the observations are too technical to be of much interest to the general reader, but it may be said that the line of research, which was Prof. Langley's pet work, has already been acknowledged by the whole scientific world to be a very important subject for investigation. By the instruments that have been devised the personal equation of the operator is eliminated almost altogether. Every eminent astronomer has a "personal equation," which is a matter of record with all the great observatories in the world. But the observations in question are made to depend as nearly as possible on mechanical contrivances, and the photographs, which are an important feature of the observations, are taken by clockwork throughout the working day, so that the record is as nearly impersonal as possible.

Observations are begun, say, in the morning, when the rays of the sun have to travel a long distance through the earth's atmospheric envelope. The point of least resistance to the rays is reached when the sun is at the zenith. After that the length of their passage through the atmosphere increases till the sun sets. By a long series of these observations it is possible to tell with great accuracy just what proportion of the actual heat of the sun is absorbed by the earth's air. At the same time the envelope of the sun itself is studied and its variations in density are observed. The heat of the sun is so great that it is hard to tell anything definite about conditions there. It is estimated that the temperature of the sun itself is about 6,000 degrees centigrade, and this is about 3,000 degrees greater than any heat that can be produced on the earth even by the aid of the electric arc. But by a long series of observations of the envelope it is possible to tell what effect a given condition around the sun will have on the climate of the earth. This is what science is now working toward.

Prof. Langley's work along this line was infinitely more important and extended than the general public imagines. All the progress that had been made in extending the study of the solar spectrum since the time of Sir Isaac Newton was either Prof. Langley's personal work or directly fostered by his researches. The result is that the extent spectrum as now known below the red rays is fifteen or sixteen times as great as it was when Prof. Langley took up the work. This study is directly in line with the observations that will be continued through the coming summer at Mt. Wilson.

Scientists' Estimate of the Work.

There has been some speculation in the newspapers recently about Congress cutting off the appropriation for the work of the astro-physical observatory. It is by no means certain that this will even be seriously discussed in Congress. But it may be remarked that the same thing was suggested in 1901. The way in which Prof. Langley met the situation then will interest even those not particularly versed in pure science. When the suggestion about cutting off the appropriation was made some of the senators with whom Prof. Langley was on terms of intimacy asked him frankly what was the good of it, anyhow, and was there any use in keeping it up.

Prof. Langley replied something after this fashion: "It is now principally a matter of pure science. I think it is valuable, and if you ask me for a report on it, I tell you frankly that I shall report favorably. But it seems to me if you would get an outside report on it from a few eminent scientific men it would be more satisfactory and convincing."

This sounded like a pretty fair proposition and the senators interested more in the appropriation bill than in the astro-physical laboratory said so.

"Very well," said Prof. Langley, "have you any preferences as to who shall make the report?"

The senators said they had not, provided the men making the report were of recognized standing. "In that case how would Lord Rayleigh and Lord Kelvin and Prof. Simon Newcomb do?" said the professor, reeling off half a dozen more names of men in about the same class with those mentioned. The senators thought they would come pretty near doing, seeing that they were the head and front of the scientific world not only here but abroad. The result was that a plain and colorless letter was prepared and sent to about twenty of these gentlemen, asking their opinion of the work of the special observatory. Their replies were unanimously to the effect that the work of the astro-physical observatory was one of the most important lines of scientific research that was being carried on in the world. The replies were embodied in a Senate document and ordered printed, together with a review of the work up to that date. After that there was no further talk of cutting off the appropriation. If the question is raised again the Senate has the answer to it already on file.

Carrying on Langley's Work.

Prof. Langley's work, as has been said, was almost altogether carried on at the red end of the spectrum, the end that has to do with making things grow on the earth. He extended the knowledge of the spectrum to fifteen or sixteen times the length it was before his investigations commenced. It is likely that some other scientist will eventually take up the work at the violet end, and there seems no reason why the spectrum should not be extended an equal distance in that direction. Perhaps in this extension scientists may develop the nature of electricity and the cathode rays and other things that are now scientific mysteries, things whose effects we can recognize but of whose nature we are entirely ignorant. This is, of course, merely scientific speculation. The concrete fact that remains is that Mr. Abbot is going to California to continue his studies in radiation and that this may result in the development of long-range forecasting as a fine art.

CAMPFIRE AND SMOKE TALK.

Gathering of Veterans Under Auspices of Nelson A. Miles Camp.

There was a large gathering of veterans last night at the club house of the Spanish War Veterans, 719 6th street northwest, the occasion being a campfire and "smoke talk" under the auspices of Gen. Nelson A. Miles Camp No. 1, United Spanish War Veterans. The members of the camp and their friends were present in force and an enjoyable evening was spent. Commander G. E. Rausch was master of ceremonies and welcomed the guests in a neat address.

Committees composed of members of Miles Camp kept the veterans and visitors supplied with army refreshments including pork and beans hardtack and other things. Stories of the war with Spain were related and the soldiers devoted much of their time to paying tribute to the late Gen. Harrington of the Marine Corps, who was one of the first honorary members of the camp.

Col. M. Emmet Urell, past commander-in-chief of the Spanish War Veterans, in his address, referred feelingly to the death of Gen. Harrington.

"A better man and a better soldier never lived," said Col. Urell, "than was my dear friend Gen. Harrington. To know him as I knew him was to love him. The true camaraderie of the soldier was his shibboleth."

Miles Camp decided to send a delegation of its members to represent it at the funeral of Gen. Harrington.

Col. Urell called attention to the national encampment of the Spanish War Veterans to be held here in October and urged all the members to "be up and doing" that the affair might be a great success. When he spoke of the Spanish War Veterans as the only successors of the Grand Army of the Republic the hall rang with cheers and applause.

"We of the District have nominated a man for commander-in-chief," concluded Col. Urell, "and we are going to elect him. There was no better soldier than he in the 1st District Regiment in the war with Spain. There was no better soldier in the District National Guard than our candidate, Maj. Fred. S. Hodgson. We are going to have a fight for the place, for the New York department has a candidate in the person of one of its most popular officers, Col. Simmons. But the District of Columbia has gone into this fight to win, and Maj. Hodgson will be its standard bearer."

Other speakers were Past Commander Orville Guy Victor of the Borden Smith Camp of Rochester, N. Y., who also gave several recitations; Capt. J. Walter Mitchell the founder of Miles Camp, who spoke of the pioneer days of the organization and paid a high tribute to the memory of the late Gen. Harrington, one of the original members of the Spanish War Veterans; Capt. Harry Walsh of Harden Camp, who also referred to the death of Gen. Harrington; Lieut. William P. Place, who said he served under Gen. Harrington when he was but a lieutenant of marines and who lauded him as a soldier and a gentleman; Capt. R. H. Wood of the 4th Immune Camp, who invited the members of Miles Camp to attend a reception and entertainment to the ladies at headquarters, 719 6th street, on the evening of April 11; Mr. Henry C. Foster of Miles Camp; Isaac N. Dolph, former adjutant of the District department; J. A. Kellar, D. J. Leahy, F. L. Gransburg and H. K. McGrath.

Prior to the smoker the camp held a business meeting and mustered in two recruits—H. K. McGrath and Michael Brown.

Proposed Hill Line to Pacific.

The report that President Hill of the Great Northern is building through Canada a third transcontinental line with which to enlarge his present system of Pacific railroads was confirmed in effect by Vice President Hill at St. Paul, Minn., yesterday. "The report might be called approximately correct," said Mr. Hill, cautiously. "It contains more facts than are usually found in stories of that sort." Mr. Hill said: "Our line includes only 800 or 900 miles that are still to be constructed west of Winnipeg. We could complete the line within three years."

Birds and Bird Life.

A stereoptican lecture was given last night at Faith Chapel southwest on "Birds and Bird Life." The lecture was under the auspices of the Junior Christian Endeavor Society. The beautiful views were loaned by the Audubon Society, to which society the juniors were indebted for the evening's entertainment. Rev. John W. Hoyt, jr., the pastor, gave the lecture. The lecture will be repeated at Bethany Chapel, 13th and C streets northwest, Thursday evening.

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NEWS ITEMS GATHERED ON THE RIVER FRONT

The tug M. Mitchell Davis of this city arrived at Norfolk yesterday, towing the wrecking tug Asher J. Hudson, which has been ashore on the beach near Cape Hatteras for several days past. The Hudson, belonging to a Norfolk wrecking company, was employed in attempting to float the schooner Fannie Palmer, ashore on Cape Hatteras. While employed in this work the tug was caught in a blow and was also carried ashore, and for a while it was thought she would be a total loss.

Arrived: Schooner William Vilas, from Maddox creek, with a cargo of lumber aboard; power barge Louise, cord wood from Nomini creek for James Creek canal; schooners Mary and Rebecca, Avalon and Elenora Russell, oysters from Potomac beds.

Sailed: Schooner Alethea, for a Virginia lumber port to load a cargo back to this market; schooner William H. Bixler, for the oyster beds in the lower river for a load of oysters for this market; schooner Wright, for a lower river point to load cord wood; steam barge Daniel K. Jackson, for Occoquan to load railway ties; schooner Lottie Carter, light for a river point for a cargo of wood.

Memoranda: Schooner Farmer's Friend has sailed from a lower river point with a cargo of lumber for this city; schooner C. H. Daiger is lying in Pope's creek, Va., loading lumber for this city; schooners Samuel Wood and Rebecca Sterling have sailed from Nomini with cargoes of wood and lumber aboard for this city.

The large brick and clay-laden scow belonging to John Miller, which has been out on the marine railway at Bennett's boat yard for several days past having its hull overhauled and caulked, was put overboard yesterday and another scow was placed on the railway. As soon as the work is completed on this vessel the bugeye Javelin will be hauled out to have her damaged stem repaired.

The steam barge Daniel Jackson, which has been lying at the wharf foot of K street for several days past, having some work done to her boiler and other repairs made, completed the work yesterday and sailed for a down-river point to load a cargo for this city. She will return by the end of the week.

The sailing scow Daniel, owned at Alexandria, is lying at the wharf of the Mutual Ice Company at Alexandria loading a cargo of machinery, which is to be taken to Colonial Beach, where it will be installed in an enlargement of the ice-making plant at the resort. The Daniel will sail with her cargo tomorrow.

The new lighter built at the yards of Cumberland & Son, at the foot of 9th street, for Johnson & Wimsatt of this city is practically completed and will be put overboard within the next day or two. The lighter will carry over 100,000 feet of lumber and is to be used for the lightering of lumber from the shore to vessels loading in the stream at shoal points along the James river. The lighter will be sent from this city to the James within the next ten days.

State Senator Butt, accused of accepting a bribe and who refused to answer questions propounded by the grand jury on the ground that he might incriminate himself, must answer, according to a decision of the supreme court at Little Rock, Ark. The decision stipulates that his answers cannot be used against Butt when his case comes to trial.

JOE'S LUCK

DREW A PRIZE IN MATRIMONIAL LOTTERY.

"Before we were married my husband was a coffee drinker and subject to severe attacks of sick headache, which interfered with his duties as superintendent of a large factory," writes a young Massachusetts matron.

"I had made up my mind that coffee was at least partly to blame, and that I could cure him after marriage by the use of Postum Food Coffee.

"When I told my younger sister about it, she laughed and said, 'Just wait and see! After you are married you'll find that Joe will have his coffee anyway.'

"I proceeded gradually, first eliminating by degrees the pastry and sweets from the daily menu, and as his meals were always daintily served and appetizing he began to have faith in his wife's ability as a cook.

"Meantime his headaches became less frequent, but did not cease altogether. When the time was ripe and I proposed to use Postum Food Coffee he consented, upon the promise that he should have the old kind of coffee at his Sunday breakfast. He grew fond of the new food drink, however, and noted that after drinking the old coffee on Sundays he suffered from unsteady nerves and a dull heavy feeling that he never had on the days when he drank Postum. The result was that at last he said, 'I would rather have the Postum Food Coffee Sunday morning, too, if you don't mind, my dear. The old kind makes me feel like a fool all day.' You may imagine how ready I was to fall in with this suggestion. The old kind of coffee has been banished from our table for more than 2 years now; Joe's headaches are only a memory and he always has steady nerves and a clear brain to meet the exacting demands of his business. On hot summer days he relishes a glass of clear, cold Postum with a squeeze of lemon, at noon, finding it most refreshing.

"In the winter I make up a pot of Postum Coffee in the evening, boiling it 15 minutes, and let it set on the back of the range till morning, when it is heated and ready to serve in a few minutes." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

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